NOAA Research in Maine

ME-1 and 2 (based in Orono - serves entire Maine coastal zone)

National Sea Grant College Program
Maine Sea Grant Program

The Maine Sea Grant Program, part of the National Sea Grant College Program, is a statewide program of research, education, and extension services whose mission is to play a leadership role in marine science research and education and to promote their use for the development, management, and stewardship of marine and coastal resources. Current research programs focus on ecosystem health, aquaculture, and fisheries issues. The public, industry, and policy-makers are kept informed on issues related to commercial fisheries and aquaculture, coastal resource development, and marine science education through the Marine Extension Team, a collaboration between the University of Maine Sea Grant and Cooperative Extension programs. In FY 2001, Maine Sea Grant projects received funding of approximately $938,000 from the National Sea Grant College Program. For more information please visit http://www.seagrant.umaine.edu

ME-1 and 2 (coastal waters)

National Undersea Research Program
National Undersea Research Center for the Northeastern United States and Great Lakes

The NOAA National Undersea Research Program (NURP) funds research in waters off Maine through the National Undersea Research Center for the Northeastern United States and Great Lakes is located at the University of Connecticut, Avery Point in Groton, Connecticut. The center provides science and operational support (occupied submersibles, remotely operated vehicles and mixed gas diving technologies) and funding for reviewed projects within the North Atlantic and the Great Lakes region. Research receiving special attention in Maine waters are the habitat characteristics controlling the recruitment and population dynamics of recreational and commercial species (e.g., American Lobster). The Center received $1.36 million in NURP funds in FY 2001. For more information please visit http://www.nurc.uconn.edu

ME-2 (Bar Harbor and Penobscot)

Forecast Systems Laboratory
GPS Meteorological Observing Systems

NOAA's Forecast Systems Laboratory (FSL) operates a rapidly expanding network of GPS Meteorological (GPS-Met) Observing Systems to monitor the total quantity of precipitable water vapor in the atmosphere. Currently, there are 93 systems over the contiguous 48 states and Alaska, and plans are being made to extend these observations to Hawaii, Puerto Rico, the Caribbean Islands, and Central America. Water vapor is an important but under-observed component of the atmosphere

that plays a major role in severe weather events and the global climate system. GPS-Met systems provide accurate water vapor measurements under all weather conditions, including thick cloud cover and precipitation, and do so at very low cost. The major reason why this system is so economical is that the network is being developed by FSL in cooperation with federal, state and local government agencies, universities, and the private sector. The GPS stations provide high-accuracy surveying and navigation services for National defense, automated agriculture, safe land and marine transportation, government infrastructure management, and 911 emergency response services. Fortuitously, these systems can also be used for meteorology with the addition of surface weather sensors. GPS-Met systems located in Maine include a site operated the U.S. Department of Transportation near Penobscot and one operated by NOAA near Bar Harbor. Two operated by the U.S. Coast Guard near Brunswick and Portland are planned in 2002. For more information please visit http://www.gpsmet.noaa.gov/jsp/index.jsp

ME-2 (Howland)

Air Resources Laboratory
Atmospheric Integrated Research Monitoring Network

AIRMoN, or Atmospheric Integrated Research Monitoring Network, is an array of sampling stations designed to quantify the extent to which changes in emissions affect air quality and deposition. NOAA's Air Resources Laboratory operates both elements of the network, AIRMoN-Wet and AIRMoN-Dry. The goal of AIRMoN-Dry is to identify and understand the processes that cause the deposition of atmospheric pollutants without the presence of precipitation in order to quantify dry deposition rates at locations where direct measurement is not possible. An AIRMoN-Dry station is located near Howland. Prime users of these data include ecologists, agriculturists, foresters, and power companies affected by Clean Air Act legislation. For more information please visit http://www.arl.noaa.gov/research/programs/airmon.html

For further information about these and other NOAA programs, please contact NOAA's Office of Legislative Affairs at (202) 482-4981.

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